

IPW

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Dated: December 29, 2004 Signature: 

(Paul C. Craane)

Docket No.: 27330/38942  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
William D. Nemedi

Application No.: 10/611,526

Confirmation No.: 4417

Filed: July 1, 2003

Art Unit: 3725

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
SHREDDING WET CHIP MATERIALS

Examiner: J. Pahng

### RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in regard to the Office Action dated December 9, 2004. In the December 9 Office Action, the examiner raises a restriction requirement between Group I (claims 1-30 and 36-43) and Group II (claims 31-35 and 44-48). Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-30 and 36-43), with traverse as follows.

In the December 9 Office Action, it is stated that:

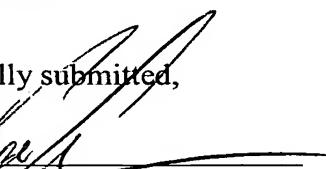
"[T]he apparatus of Group I as claimed can be practiced by another materially different process and not necessarily the specific steps of Group II. For example, claim 1 does not require rotating the rotor in a direction opposite the first direction as required by claim 31."

Applicant notes, however, that claim 7, which is in Group I, recites a shredder apparatus in accordance with claim 1 in which the rotor rotates in a direction opposite to the direction of flow of wet chip material entering said shredder apparatus. Consequently, applicant submits that the subject matter (the direction of the rotation of the rotor) that

allegedly differentiates Groups I and II will be searched and examined as a consequence of the examiner's review of claim 7. Given that the subject matter at issue will be searched and examined as part of the review of claims 1-30 and 36-43, applicant submits that there will be no serious burden for all 48 claims to be examined in the instant application, and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. See MPEP 803.

Dated: December 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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